



Protecting people
Preventing harm
Preparing for threats

Advice on Exclusion from Schools and Workplaces

Following the closure of some schools as a precautionary measure where probable or confirmed cases of swine flu have occurred, the Health Protection Agency would like to provide the following advice for the public:

- ▶ The only people who need to refrain from their normal activities (such as going to school or work) are those who are being investigated as a probable or confirmed case of swine flu.
- ▶ Anyone who is suspected of having swine flu will be given antivirals pending the outcome of further tests and they will be asked to stay at home and limit their contact with other people until the test results are available.
- ▶ Close contacts of probable or confirmed cases, whether family or friends, will be started on antivirals and as long as they do not have any symptoms, can continue to attend school or work.
- ▶ Children and adults who have had contact with probable or confirmed cases in social community settings and who have no symptoms do not need to be excluded from either school or the workplace. They should continue their normal daily routines.

It is important to remember that flu can only be spread from one person to another when an infected person has symptoms (i.e. coughing and sneezing).

This advice is based on the situation as it currently stands. It is important to remember that swine flu is an unknown virus and there is still more work to be done before it is fully understood. Until then risk assessments must be based on what is currently known but will be continually updated to reflect new information as it emerges.

General infection control practices and good respiratory hand hygiene can help to reduce transmission of all viruses, including swine flu. This includes:

- ▶ Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible.
- ▶ Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully.
- ▶ Maintaining good basic hygiene, for example washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to face or to other people.
- ▶ Cleaning hard surfaces (e.g. door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product.
- ▶ Making sure your children follow this advice.

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